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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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## DOI In The News

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### U.S. National Monument Review To Test Key Land Protection Law.

[Reuters](#) (8/20, Volcovici) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke faces an Aug. 24 deadline to "recommend whether to eliminate or shrink nearly two dozen national monuments, creating the first major test" for the 111-year-old Antiquities Act. Zinke is "expected to recommend that at least some of the national monuments under review – which were all created since 1996 – be rescinded or shrunk in size, responding to an order by President Donald Trump, who believes there should be greater opportunity to increase local resource development and economic opportunities." The article notes that "no president has ever revoked a previous designation." Previous presidents "did reduce the size of some existing monuments," but "this time, environmental groups are prepared to challenge any changes in court – something that has not happened before."

[The Hill](#) (8/19, Henry) reports that as the "review of national monument designations reaches a close," Zinke is "facing more heat than ever from conservationists and outdoor groups." Critics of the review claim "it could close off America's natural treasures to the public, and have poured more than \$2 million into ads targeting Zinke, urging him not to rescind large national monuments established under the last three presidents." However, "industry officials and conservatives want Zinke to loosen the federal government's grip on huge swaths of acreage around the country, and propose reforms to the monuments law."

Additional coverage of the review was provided by [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (8/20, Tobias), [Newsmax](#) (8/19, Reyner), [Bloomberg BNA](#) (8/18, McCutcheon), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (8/20, Lochhead), the [San Luis Obispo \(CA\) Tribune](#) (8/20, Ferreira), the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (8/20, Miller), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Business First](#) (8/18, Sapin), and [National Geographic](#) (8/18, Parker).

***Oil Speculation Booms In Area Of No Oil.*** The [Daily Caller](#) (8/19, Pearce) reports that "millions of acres worth of requests for oil speculation on federal lands were submitted in Nevada just years before former President Barack Obama designated two national monuments in the state, the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) found Friday." The Nevada Expression of Interest documents are "mostly worthless and a waste of taxpayer money, however, according to CBD Nevada state director, Patrick Donnelly." Donnelly said that "CBD is using the information as evidence President Donald Trump's review of national monument designations, and its potential to roll back some of those, is 'a complete sham.'"

***Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Criticized For Vacationing During Monument Task.*** In a piece for the [Denver Westword](#) (8/18, Prendergast) Alan Prendergast writes: “with just a week left until the date Zinke is supposed to conclude his review, he has only visited eight of the 27 targeted monuments. And he isn’t likely to meet with stakeholders for the others before the announced deadline. As the Denver-based Center for Western Priorities points out in a recent broadside, Zinke is currently on a Mediterranean vacation with his wife, Lola.”

***Marine Monuments Legally Established By Presidents Must Be Preserved.*** For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (8/18, Schiffer, Contributor), Lois Schiffer, an environmental attorney and former General Counsel of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, decries the review as “unprecedented,” and warns that it “could lead to unlawful decisions to rescind, substantially reduce in size, or change the management.” Schiffer raises concerns that “such decisions would also undermine one of our nation’s most important conservation tools.” Schiffer rejects arguments that “presidents cannot designate them in the ocean, and some of these monuments are too big.”

***COMMENTARY: Trump Administration’s Review Of National Monuments Could Set A Dangerous Precedent.*** In an op-ed for the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (8/18, Guzman, Madrigal), Peter Guzman, president of the Las Vegas Latin Chamber of Commerce, and Norberto Madrigal, vice president of the Latin Chamber, they attended the “Western Businesses for National Monuments” roundtable discussions in Montana because it was important “to discuss how losing national monument protections might affect small businesses who rely on tourism and outdoor enthusiasts visiting protected public lands.” Their goal in Montana was “to connect with other local businesses and share our stories of innovation and job-creation fueled by public lands.” They write that “the big takeaway was unequivocal: The monument review is a dangerous path and threatens future economic development.”

Kevin Timm, the co-founder of Seek Outside, writes similarly in the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (8/20, Timm).

***Commentary: The Antiquities Act Was Meant To Protect Indian History.*** In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/18, Cachora, Wright), Lorey Cachora, a member of the Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe, and Aaron Wright, a Preservation Archaeologist at Archaeology Southwest in Tucson, Arizona, write that the review threatens “the heritage of Native Americans – the groups whose histories the Antiquities Act of 1906 was intended to protect.” They write that if “Trump’s concern is one of scale, he should take the time to listen to Native communities – something Secretary Zinke continuously fails to do – and perhaps his narrow vision could grow to be more inclusive.” According to the authors, “many iconic national monuments in the American West – including some of the ones Trump and company have in their crosshairs – remind us that scale is relative to cultural perspective.” They conclude: “Vast tracts of former tribal lands are now public lands, and national monuments serve to safeguard the cultural heritage of many Native communities. A threat to reduce or eliminate any of them adds to a long list of transgressions against Native Americans.”

***Commentary: There Is Much This Native Potato Can Teach Us.*** In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/19, Wilson), Cynthia Wilson, the Traditional Foods Program Director at Utah Diné Bikéyah, writes that “a native potato recently discovered by two university researchers” could “be one of the most compelling reasons to validate and protect Utah’s two threatened national monuments.” According to Wilson, “this native potato tied to indigenous farming practices dating back 11,000 years is a celebration of, and a plea to keep intact Utah’s two national monuments, Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears.” She continues, “This potato illustrates in scientific and indigenous terms how important Bears Ears is to Native people, and it also helps us understand how important traditional knowledge is to the stewardship of public lands.”

***Additional Commentary.*** Additional commentary appeared in [Huffington Post](#) (8/18, Arce, Contributor), the [Huffington Post](#) (8/18, Peterman, Contributor), the [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (8/19, Haab, Briggs), the [Bakersfield \(CA\) Californian](#) (8/20, Salvaggio), the [Redlands \(CA\) Daily Facts](#) (8/18, Miller), the [Whittier \(CA\) Daily News](#) (8/20, Duane), the [San Gabriel Valley \(CA\) Tribune](#) (8/20, Duane), the [Pasadena \(CA\) Star-News](#) (8/20, Duane), and the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (8/19, Thibodeau).

### **Interior’s Orders Troubling For Hunters, Anglers.**

In an op-ed for the [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (8/21, Findling), Karl Findling, the owner of Oregon Pack Works in Bend, writes that “when Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was confirmed by the U.S. Senate back in March, hunters and anglers felt their interests would be well-represented by the agency responsible for managing 500 million acres of the nation’s public lands, including

our national parks, wildlife refuges and Bureau of Land Management lands." But "five months later, unless we see some major shifts at Interior — and soon — it's looking as if Zinke will go down as yet another politician who fooled the sporting community by pretending to be one of us, someone who legitimately cares about the future of wildlife habitat and public lands." According to Findling, "ever since the secretary moved into his new D.C. office, hunters and anglers have watched a steady stream of anti-sportsman and anti-wildlife orders flow from his desk." He concludes: "With energy, monument and sage grouse conservation decisions looming in the coming weeks and months, the time is now for the sporting community to judge the secretary. And it's time for Zinke to show that he cares."

## **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

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### **In Montana's Indian Country, Tribes Take Opposite Sides On Coal.**

[Reuters](#) (8/21, Volcovici) reports that the Crow Nation and Northern Cheyenne, who "stand on opposite sides of U.S. President Donald Trump's pro-energy agenda," illustrate the "broader divide on drilling and mining among America's 567 federally recognized tribes." According to the article, "for tribes such as the Crow, Trump's rise marks an opportunity to tap more of the vast energy reserves beneath their lands for a needed economic boost." But "for other tribes including the Northern Cheyenne, the administration poses a threat by too forcefully injecting its fossil-fuel agenda into tribal policy while ignoring environmental and social concerns."

### **Federal Government Denies A Native American Tribe Millions.**

[NPR](#) (8/19) reports that the federal government is denying NookSack Tribe in the Pacific Northwest "tens of millions of dollars and have shut down their casino and are taking over tribal health care." That's because the Interior Department "says the tribe improperly disenrolled an extended family of 300 people." The Interior Department "says the tribe does not have a government" and they also "aren't recognizing the disenrollments."

### **Comanche Nation Sues Over New Chickasaw Casino Near Texas Border.**

The [Oklahoman](#) (8/19, Bailey) reports that the Comanche Nation is "suing the federal government over a rival casino the Chickasaw Nation is building two miles north of the Texas border in the Jefferson County town of Terral." The lawsuit claims the Interior Department and the Bureau of Indian Affairs "allowed the Chickasaw Nation and other tribes to skirt requirements to place off-reservation land into trust for new casinos, depriving smaller tribes such as the Comanche Nation of their share of the gaming market." The lawsuit claims, "BIA officials moved the goal line so close to the Chickasaws and other privileged tribes in Oklahoma that they have needed only to fall into the end zone and open up shop, secure in the knowledge that the score was virtually certain to hold up without any replay."

## **Bureau Of Indian Education**

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### **Tribes Hope For Renewal In Solar Eclipse; Not All Will Watch.**

The [AP](#) (8/19, Fonseca) reports that "across the country, American Indian tribes are observing the eclipse in similar and not-so-similar ways." According to the article, "some tribal members will ignore it, others might watch while praying for an anticipated renewal, and those in prime viewing spots are welcoming visitors with storytelling, food and celebration." U.S. Bureau of Indian Education spokeswoman Nedra Darling "said the agency's schools, most of which are on the Navajo Nation, were given the option of closing Monday."

## **Bureau Of Land Management**

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### **Enviros Want Governor To Oppose Mine Royalty Request.**

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (8/20, Webb) reports that "environmentalists are calling on Gov. John Hickenlooper to oppose Arch Coal's request for a reduced federal royalty rate for part of its West Elk Mine operations in the North Fork Valley, arguing that supporting it would run counter to his recently announced initiative to fight climate change." The Bureau of Land Management "wrote to Hickenlooper Aug. 3 to say it is proposing approving the company's

request to reduce the rate to 5 percent from the standard underground coal mine rate of 8 percent in part of the mine because of adverse geological and mining conditions." The BLM "asked Hickenlooper for his comments on the proposal within 30 days."

### **Drilling Proposal Draws Heat.**

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (8/21, Harmon) reports that "environmental organizations are gearing up to battle a company's plan to drill 108 oil wells in the Whitewater Basin area, while local governments are looking to the project as a potential boon." The Mesa County Commission is "to consider a letter to the Bureau of Land Management regarding the drilling plan proposed by Fram Operating LLC to produce about 8.7 million barrels of oil in 20 years, creating as many as 70 jobs." The BLM is "accepting comments on the environmental study of the Fram proposal until Aug. 28."

### **At Bundy Ranch Trial, Questions On Guns And Violence.**

The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (8/18, Wiles) reports that the "trial of Cliven Bundy's armed supporters in Nevada is raising thorny issues around the threat of violence and its relationship to free speech." According to the article, "defendants in the first of three Bunkerville trials, which wrapped up this week, have described their actions as being protected by the First and Second Amendments to the Constitution." However, "prosecutors say the trial is about men who used the threat of violence to defy law enforcement, and that the law does not protect people who intimidate, threaten or assault others."

### **BLM Seeks Comment On Proposed OHV Trail System In Western RBC.**

The [Rio Blanco \(CO\) Herald Times](#) (8/19) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is "seeking comments from the public before beginning the environmental analysis for a proposed 364-mile off-highway vehicle trail system primarily in Rio Blanco County." BLM White River Field Manager Kent Walter said, "The BLM strives to be a good neighbor, and we welcome and value diverse views from the communities we serve. Comments on this proposal will be most helpful if received by September 11, 2017."

### **Burning Man Might Be More Fun Than Usual this Year, Here's Why.**

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (8/18, Graff) reports that "the dust will be present as always this year" at Burning Man, "but due to the heavy winter rains, it could be less of a nuisance." Kyle Hendrix, a spokesperson for the Bureau of Land Management, said, "The conditions present the potential for a less dusty event."

## **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

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### **With Comment Period Over, Interior Mulls 5-year Lease Plan.**

[E&E Publishing](#) (8/18) reported that with the public comment period closing on revisions for the current five-year offshore drilling lease plan, the Interior Department will have to consider what changes to make. Acting assistant secretary for Interior Katharine MacGregor said the BOEM is still a long way from issuing any final decisions. The department will now review the comments and issue a draft plan for additional public review.

***Don't Open Restricted Waters To Oil, Gas Drilling.*** The [AP](#) (8/20) reports Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey is opposing a new five-year national offshore oil and gas leasing program that would include more acreage. Healey filed public comments with the BOEM expressing concern that opening the Atlantic to drilling could threaten the state's economy and coastal environment. She said an oil spill could "devastate" the commercial fishing industry, while harming the state's recreation and tourism industries.

### ***Governor Roy Cooper Voices His Opposition To Oil And Gas Drilling Off North Carolina Coast.***

The [Wilmington \(NC\) Port City Daily](#) (8/18, Kane) reported North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper sent a letter to the BOEM and state Department of Environmental Quality Secretary Michael Regan opposing offshore drilling. Cooper cited opposition from residents at public hearings, a coastline that is not conducive to drilling, and an economy that is driven by tourism as reasons to oppose additional leases. The letter said, "Because offshore drilling threatens North Carolina's critical coastal industries and unique coastal environment with limited benefits for our citizens, it is a bad deal for North Carolina. ... Accordingly, I ask that you respect the wishes of our state and maintain in the new OCS Leasing Plan the current prohibition of oil and gas drilling off North



Carolina's coast."

**Attorney General Becerra To Trump Administration: Drilling Off Of California's Coast Is A Non-starter.** [Orange County \(CA\) Breeze](#) (8/19) reported that California Attorney General Xavier Becerra submitted comments opposing any attempts to open California's coast to new offshore drilling. Becerra said, "Californians have made it clear that they do not want new drilling off the shores of California's coast. ... As their Attorney General, I will do everything possible to protect our state's pristine natural resources. This decision does not make sense since the oil and gas industry have no interest in exploring and developing off California's shore."

**Additional Coverage.** Additional coverage was provided by [Platts](#) (8/18), [Oil Price](#) (8/20, Cunningham), the [Bluffton \(SC\) Today](#) (8/18), the [North Jersey \(NJ\) Media Group](#) (8/20), the [Leesburg \(FL\) Daily Commercial](#) (8/18), and the [Fredericksburg \(VA\) Free Lance-Star](#) (8/19, Gerard).

### **Houston Firm's Plan Moves Ahead To Become First To Drill In Arctic Waters.**

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (8/19, Shankman, Email) reported that "a proposal for the first oil and gas drilling in federal offshore waters of the Arctic is taking a step forward, even as regulators raise concerns." The article stated that the Liberty Project, "proposed by Houston-based Hilcorp," would allow the energy company "to build a 24-acre gravel island in about 19 feet of water, from which it would drill up to 16 wells." The article pointed out that the Bureau of Oceans and Energy Management projects that the new facility would ultimately "produce 58,000 barrels a day." Concerns raised by regulators include fears that the project "could negatively impact marine mammals and the communities that rely on them."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Caller](#) (8/18).

## **Bureau Of Reclamation**

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### **Sacramento County Sues State Over Delta Tunnels.**

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (8/18, Kasler, Sabalow) reports that "Sacramento County led a cascade of area governments suing the state in an effort to block the Delta tunnels, saying the \$17 billion project would harm local farmers, endangered fish and low-income communities at the south end of the county." According to the article, "elected officials in the Sacramento area long have opposed the project and have formed an alliance, called the Delta Counties Coalition, dedicated to fighting the tunnels." Sacramento County filed its lawsuit last Thursday, "as did the Placer County Water Agency, the cities of Stockton and Antioch and a consortium of commercial fishermen's groups." The article says that "additional lawsuits were expected to be filed by Monday, the legal deadline for attacking the tunnels project with a CEQA suit."

### **Horsefly Irrigation District Looks To Convert Canal System.**

The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (8/18) reports that "the Horsefly Irrigation District has been awarded a WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant through the Bureau of Reclamation to assist with converting approximately 1.68 miles of open canal to subterranean piping." The bureau has "released a Draft Environmental Assessment to disclose potential environmental effects and is seeking public comment on the proposed project."

### **EDITORIAL: Things Looking Up — At Least Temporarily — On Colorado River – Las Vegas Review-Journal.**

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (8/20) views last week's projection by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation "that, thanks to heavy snow in the Rockies, Lake Mead's water levels will remain high enough through 2019 to avoid a federal shortage declaration," as "good news" for "Clark County's water supply." The paper credits "conservation efforts along with more efficient agricultural practices."

### **Guest Opinion: Don't Dam Yellowstone River.**

In an op-ed for the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (8/20, Skoglund, Poole), Matt Skoglund, director of the Natural Resources Defense Council's Northern Rockies office, and Kate Poole, director of NRDC's Water and Wildlife Project, opposes a proposal by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation to build "a permanent concrete dam near Glendive." According to the authors, "it will likely cause the last 125 wild pallid sturgeon to lose access to needed spawning grounds and put the nail in the coffin for this species that has survived since the age of the dinosaurs." They

urge the agencies "to revise their proposal to adopt better alternatives to a dam."

## Fish And Wildlife Service

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### Nebraska To Get Nearly \$600,000 For Wildlife Conservation.

The [AP](#) (8/19) reports that "Nebraska will receive nearly \$600,000 in federal funding to help with wildlife conservation projects in the state." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "recently announced that Nebraska agencies will share \$590,000 to help create habitat for different species."

*Ga. Awarded \$1.3 Million For Wildlife Protection Projects.* The [Marietta \(GA\) Daily Journal](#) (8/19) reports that "Georgia has been awarded more than \$1.3 million in federal funds to support wildlife conservation projects in the state."

*Outdoors Notebook: Pennsylvania To Receive Federal Wildlife Enhancement Grants.* The [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (8/20, Hayes) reports that Pennsylvania's fish and wildlife management agencies will receive \$1.5 million

### Asian Carp Found Near Lake Michigan Got Past Barriers.

The [AP](#) (8/18, Flesher) reports that "an adult Asian carp found in a Chicago waterway near Lake Michigan this summer began its life far downstream and apparently got around a series of electric barriers intended to keep the invasive species out of the Great Lakes, officials said Friday." According to the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee, "autopsy results and a scientific analysis showed the silver carp, which was caught June 22, was a 4-year-old male that originated in the Illinois/Middle Mississippi watershed." Charlie Wooley, the Midwest deputy regional director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said that "it could have hatched anywhere along a roughly 200-mile (320-kilometer) stretch of the Illinois River before migrating northwest."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Chicago Tribune](#) (8/18, Flesher).

### Endangered Sea Turtle Nest On Maui Relocated.

[Maui \(HI\) Now](#) (8/19) reports that "on Friday, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Hawai'i Wildlife Fund rescued a nest of Hawksbill Sea Turtles (honu 'ea) on the island of Maui." According to the article, "the nest of 241 critically endangered turtle eggs was within inches of collapsing into the surf when the team of biologists and volunteers performed the emergency nest relocation."

### Coconino Voices: State Management Of Mexican Gray Wolves Not Based On Science.

In an op-ed for the [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (8/19, CRUMBO, BAH), Kim Crumbo, the Western Conservation Director of Wildlands Network, and Sandy Bahr is Director, Sierra Club-Grand Canyon Chapter, questions Arizona Game and Fish Commission (AZGFD) Chairman Jim Ammon's assertion that "the recently released Mexican wolf draft recovery plan is based on the 'best available science.'" According to the authors, "the draft plan would allow Mexican wolves to lose protection under the Endangered Species Act with fewer than half the number that scientists say are needed for recovery." They conclude that "given the science supporting wolf recovery in three U.S. populations, not to mention the improper — if not illegal — political interference in what should be a scientific analysis of what is needed for the Mexican wolf's survival, a credible scientific recovery plan is needed, not this recovery sham."

## National Park Service

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### National Park Service Ends Policy Encouraging Parks To Ban Plastic Water Bottle Sales.

[The Hill](#) (8/19, Carter) reports that the National Park Service has "ended a policy encouraging national parks to end the sale of plastic disposable water bottles that was aimed at reducing pollution and plastic waste." Acting National Park Service director Michael T. Reynolds said in a statement, "While we will continue to encourage the use of free water bottle filling stations as appropriate, ultimately it should be up to our visitors to decide how best to keep themselves and their families hydrated during a visit to a national park, particularly during hot summer visitation periods." The article notes that "the announcement came after the recent Senate confirmation of David Bernhardt as deputy secretary for the Department of the Interior." Bernhardt is "a former lobbyist who worked for a law firm that represented one of the largest water bottle companies in the country, according to The Washington Post."



In an editorial, the [Washington Times](#) (8/20) supports the move. It notes that “the ban on water puzzled critics, who observed that it didn’t do away as well with sales of bottled sugary drinks at the parks’ restaurants and concession stands since the advertised aim of the prohibition was to reduce the litter of recyclable plastic bottles.” It also argues that “deploying recycling bins is far less costly than the plumbing required to put in water fountains throughout more than 400 national parks.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (8/20, Glenza) and [Breitbart](#) (8/20, Rodriguez).

### **New Mexico, Tribes To Share In Historic Preservation Grants.**

The [AP](#) (8/19) reports that “New Mexico and nearly a dozen tribes in the state will share more than \$660,000 in federal grants for historic preservation projects.” The National Park Service is awarding the funding “to help communities protect historic places, traditions and cultures.” In total, “federal officials say the National Park Service has funneled \$58 million in historic preservation funding to states and tribes this year.”

### **National Park Service Set To Hire Contractor For Washington Monument Renovation.**

[WRC-TV](#) Washington (8/18, MacFarlane) reports that the National Park Service is “expected to hire a contractor to complete a major elevator repair inside the Washington Monument by the end of August.” The contractor, “once formally selected and announced, will also construct a visitor screening center for the popular attraction.” An agency official said “an announcement will happen by Thursday, Aug. 31.”

### **Lawmakers Urge Removal Of Robert E. Lee Statue At Antietam.**

[Politico](#) (8/19, Wright) reports that “amid the national firestorm over Civil War monuments, Maryland lawmakers are pressing the National Park Service to remove a statue of Robert E. Lee that some view as an egregious attempt to sanitize Confederate history.” Also, “key House Democrats are threatening legislation if the Park Service won’t act on its own to take down the statue at Antietam National Battlefield, site of the bloodiest single-day battle in U.S. history.” Rep. John Delaney said, “The history of this piece, which now resides on this sacred ground, certainly makes it clear it was recently erected by a private citizen out of pro-Confederacy enthusiasm and not to provide historical context or under the direction of a battlefield historian. I don’t think that taxpayer resources should serve that end.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Hagerstown \(MD\) Herald-Mail Media](#) (8/19, Baker).

***National Robert E. Lee Memorial Gets A Rewrite.*** [The Atlantic](#) (8/16, Berman) reports that the National Park Service has changed the description of “Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial” in Virginia. Before August 14, the NPS described the memorial to honor Lee, and made no mention of the oppression he was fighting for. The description was updated on August 14 to include the “most difficult aspects of American history.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Salon](#) (8/18, Maldonado).

### **Jefferson Memorial Exhibit Update Will Acknowledge Slavery Record.**

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/20, Gehrke) reports that the Trust for the National Mall has announced that “an exhibit alongside the nation’s chief memorial to Thomas Jefferson will receive an update that reflects ‘the complexity’ of his status as a founder of the United States and a slaveholder.” The Trust’s president, Catherine Townsend, said in a letter, “In the coming weeks and months, the physical symbols of American history and democracy will be scrutinized and challenged. When that happens, we will work with our partners to ensure the National Mall continues to be a vibrant and relevant place where Americans can learn about our history and imagine our future, together.”

### **Red Paint Thrown On DC Statue Of Confederate General.**

[WRC-TV](#) Washington (8/18, Fitzgerald, Cook) reports that “someone has thrown red paint on a statue that honors a Confederate general in Washington, D.C.” Toward the end of a protest last Friday, someone threw red paint on the statue for Albert Pike. U.S. Park Police are investigating the vandalism. D.C. Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton “said she plans to meet with the National Park Service to discuss removing the statue.”

### **Mostly Peaceful Crowd Turns Out For Demonstration.**

The [Hot Springs \(AR\) Sentinel-Record](#) (8/20, Bryan) reports that “a demonstration in support of

Confederate monuments held Saturday in Hot Springs National Park drew, at its peak, between 350-400 demonstrators and counterprotesters and resulted in only a handful of arrests, mostly for disorderly conduct, city and National Park Service officials said." The rally, "the fourth of its kind this year, drew more attention than the earlier gatherings given the events of the week before, when violence broke out at a Charlottesville, Va., rally to protest the removal of a Gen. Robert E. Lee monument."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (8/18).

### **Tubman National Park In Auburn: Another Legal Hurdle, Preservation Work And More Visitors.**

The [Auburn \(NY\) Citizen](#) (8/20, Harding) reports that "there is another agreement that needs to be finalized between the Harriet Tubman Home and National Park Service" for the establishment of the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park. Karen Hill, president and CEO of the Harriet Tubman Home in Auburn, "said both sides are negotiating what she referred to as an implementation agreement." According to the article, "while the arrangements were detailed in the general agreement signed in January, a more formal accord was required to outline the roles for each party."

### **City May Donate South Dakota Land To National Park Service.**

The [AP](#) (8/19) reports that "a city in southeast South Dakota is considering giving a portion of city-owned land to the National Park Service to provide additional access to the Missouri National Recreational River." The Yankton City Commission "discussed a proposal Monday to draft an agreement for transferring more than 30 acres of land on the Nebraska side of the Missouri River to the park service." River Superintendent Rick Clark "said that getting the land could be a huge boost to the park's ability to obtain funding for trail improvements."

### **Beach Drive Rehab Progress: Nearly 2 Miles Of Roadway Rebuilt, 4.6 Miles To Go.**

The [Washington Post](#) (8/19, Lazo) reports that the reopening of "a newly reconstructed portion of Beach Drive" at the end of the month will "mark completion of a third of a three-year project to rehabilitate the 6.5-mile Beach Drive." According to the article, "in the past year, 1.82 miles in the southernmost portion of the route was rebuilt," but "there are still two years and 4.6 miles to go." At 1 p.m. Sunday, the National Park Service will "welcome neighbors and other road users for a car-free party at the National Zoo entrance on Beach Drive."

Additional coverage was provided by [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (8/20).

### **Dinosaur Nat'l Monument Creek Due To Septic Line Break.**

The [AP](#) (8/18) reports that "a popular fishing spot in Dinosaur National Monument has been closed because of a broken septic line at a fish hatchery." The National Park Service "said Thursday that Jones Hole Creek near the Colorado-Utah border has been temporarily closed to fishing and swimming because of the leak." The article adds that "the adjacent hiking 4-mile trail from the Jones Hole Fish Hatchery to the Green River is also closed."

### **Nonnative Fish To Be Poisoned Off In Yellowstone River.**

The [AP](#) (8/19) reports that Yellowstone National Park officials are "about to deliberately poison off nonnative fish species in one of the park's major river drainages." According to the article, "the operation along the upper Gibbon River begins Monday and will include lakes in the river drainage." Park officials are "targeting lake-dwelling grayling as well as rainbow trout and brook trout. They plan to reintroduce native species after the operation is finished."

### **Indiana National Park: Take Those Painted Rocks Elsewhere.**

The [AP](#) (8/20) reports that the George Rogers Clark National Historical Park is "discouraging visitors from taking part in a scavenger hunt-type fad where people paint rocks and leave them places." Joe Herron, the park's chief ranger says "that park employees have 'had to be a party pooper' and pick up and remove painted rocks left in the park that honors a Revolutionary War hero because they aren't consistent with the National Park Service's 'leave it as you found it' policy."

### **Rescue Effort Frees Whale Stranded In Olympic National Park.**

The [Chinook \(WA\) Observer](#) (8/19) reports that "a rescue effort during high tide late Friday night freed a young gray whale that had been stranded on a remote beach in Olympic National Park

and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary for about three days.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (8/18).

### **Officials Consider Removing Part Of Bridge After Drownings.**

The [AP](#) (8/19) reports that the National Park Service is “mulling new safety measures after two recent drownings by people who jumped off a 101-year-old bridge into the Chattahoochee River.” Officials are “considering removing beams on the Gwinnett County side of the bridge.”

Additional coverage was provided by [WXIA-TV](#) Atlanta (8/18, Richards).

### **1 Dead In Police Shooting At Buffalo National River.**

The [AP](#) (8/20) reports that “authorities in Arkansas say one man is dead after an officer-involved shooting at the Buffalo National River in northern Arkansas.” The incident “occurred Saturday night in the Lower Buffalo Ranger District of the national river.” According to authorities “no officers were injured in the shooting.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Springfield \(MO\) News-Leader](#) (8/20, Schmitt).

### **California Fire Forces Evacuations In Yosemite National Park.**

The [AP](#) (8/20) reports that “evacuation orders remain in place for the tiny California community of Wawona as crews try to surround a stubborn, week-old fire in Yosemite National Park.” According to the article, “authorities ordered residents in and around Wawona to evacuate Saturday as flames came within 1 ½ miles and air quality reached hazardous levels.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (8/19, Panoo) and the [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (8/19, Panoo).

### **Woman Becomes Glacier National Park’s First Female Packer.**

The [AP](#) (8/19, Scott) reports that Jill Michalak is “bucking convention at Glacier National Park, where this season she landed a job as the first female packer in the program’s century-old history.” Glacier’s lead packer Dave Elwood said that “Michalak possesses the mettle of a packing pro; she regards the trade’s traditional roots with deep esteem, she possesses all of the skills and knows how to use them, and she understands the importance of maintaining public lands and wilderness.” Elwood said, “As long as we have wilderness, we’ll have packers, and we need young packers like Jill to carry on the legacy to future generations. I think our forefathers saw the mechanized world coming, and they had the foresight to set some of this aside. It’s up to us and the National Park Service to preserve that.”

## **Office Of Insular Affairs**

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### **North Korean Threat Revitalizes Opposition To US Military Expansion In Guam.**

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/18, Craymer) reported the North Korean nuclear threat has rekindled a local movement in Guam opposed to a planned US military expansion on the island, which the Pentagon announced in 2006 but delayed over environmental concerns and a series of legal challenges and opposition actions. Activists argue Guam’s security has been jeopardized because of its status as a US territory and residents’ lack of a voice in Washington.

**Hagerty Says US, Japan Committed To Calming Rhetoric Over North Korea.** [Reuters](#) (8/18, Kelly) reports that on Friday, the US Ambassador to Japan, William Hagerty, met with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Hagerty lamented his visit comes at a difficult time, but that the US-Japanese alliance “is rock solid, in fact in my personal view this is the greatest alliance on earth.” He stressed that the US sought to cooperate with Japan to “calm the rhetoric” over the North Korean threat. On Thursday, Secretary of State Tillerson, Defense Secretary Mattis, and their Japanese counterparts also agreed “to work more closely on North Korea.” Tillerson remarked, “Our effort is to cause them to want to engage in talks but engage in talks with an understanding that these talks will lead to a different conclusion than talks of the past.”

The [New York Times](#) (8/18, Rich) says Abe is keenly aware that Japan “needs the United States as its primary protector in a volatile region,” but analysts suggested he is beginning “to consider a more independent role for Japan in Asia: one that looks beyond the current White House as Japan prepares for an era in which American influence may be waning.” The Times points to Japan’s involvement in the Trans-Pacific Partnership and pledge to cooperate with China’s “One Belt, One Road” infrastructure project as evidence that the nation may be distancing itself. According to some analysts, however, Japan will not likely sever its close relations with the

US, in large part because of the military constraints under Japan's pacifist constitution.

**US, South Korea To Conduct Joint Military Exercises.** [Reuters](#) (8/18) reports the Pentagon said Friday that from Aug. 21 through Aug. 31, about 17,500 US troops will join South Korean forces in a joint military exercise dubbed Ulchi Freedom Guardian, which the Pentagon described as a "computer simulated defensive exercise designed to enhance readiness, protect the region and maintain stability on the Korean peninsula." Troops from Australia, Britain, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, New Zealand, and the Netherlands will also participate. Reuters notes the joint exercise comes amid escalating tensions "over North Korea's missile and nuclear weapons program."

[USA Today](#) (8/18, Michaels) reports North Korea's official media outlet, Central News Agency, warned that the US-South Korean joint exercise will "further drive the situation on the Korean Peninsula into a catastrophe." Pyongyang's ongoing threats have "triggered a stern warning from Washington," including from Defense Secretary Mattis, who on Thursday asserted, "In the event of a missile launch towards the territory of Japan, Guam, United States, Korea, we would take immediate, specific actions to take it down."

**Rohrabacher Urges Pentagon To Conduct "Massive Cyberattack" On North Korea.** The [Washington Times](#) (8/18, Blake) reports that on Thursday, House Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia and Emerging Threats Chairman Dana Rohrabacher called on the Pentagon to conduct "a coordinated, massive cyberattack on North Korea's infrastructure, disabling the dictatorship's communications and its missile-launch capabilities." Rohrabacher explained, "The ultimate goal, of course, must be regime change, and we may hope that North Korea's sponsors in China also recognize that necessity."

### **Survey To Track Pacific Migrants.**

The [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#) (8/19, Nakaso) reports that the Interior Department "by December 2018 plans to count the number of people who travel under the Compacts of Free Association in Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa to determine how much federal money Hawaii and the U.S. territories will receive to offset 'the economic and social impacts of these migrants.'"

## **Top National News**

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### **Trump Expected To Announce Afghanistan Troop Increase In Televised Address.**

Coverage of the White House announcement that President Trump will address the nation about Afghanistan on Monday evening is brief and straightforward owing to the lack of detail in the statement. Reports say that it appears the President will announce an increase in troop strength, probably by 4,000 troops. Most sources stick to the basic facts, though several look at the ongoing debate within the Administration over Afghanistan policy – as well as the President's own reported reluctance to continue the war there.

The [CBS Weekend News](#) (8/20, lead story, 2:05, Quijano) reported, "Exactly seven months into his presidency, with his economic agenda eclipsed by political turmoil, President Trump is shifting focus to America's longest war. The President will address the nation Monday night with a new strategy for the war in Afghanistan. It could include sending thousands more US troops." On [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/20, story 3, 2:20, Diaz-Balart), Kelly O'Donnell reported that "the President will unveil his plan...after a strategy session with his top advisers at Camp David Friday." In a brief report, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/20, story 4, 3:00, Llamas) said Trump "has repeatedly expressed a desire to bring America's longest war to a close, but his generals are telling him that the job is not finished." The [Washington Post](#) (8/20, Morello, Wagner) reports, "Trump has given Mattis authority to set troop levels in the country, but Mattis has been waiting for Trump to decide a strategic focus before he sends any more troops."

The [New York Times](#) (8/20, Gordon) reports that Defense Secretary Mattis said that Trump, "who had been accused by lawmakers of dragging his feet on Afghanistan, had settled on a new strategy after a 'rigorous' review." On an overnight flight to Jordan, Mattis told reporters, "The President has made a decision. I am very comfortable that the strategic process was sufficiently rigorous." The [Washington Post](#) (8/20, Morello, Wagner) reports, "Trump has given Mattis authority to set troop levels in the country, but Mattis has been waiting for Trump to decide a strategic focus before he sends any more troops."

[USA Today](#) (8/20, Collins) reports that "options on the table include proposals to send roughly 3,000 to 5,000 more US troops. ... The top commander in Afghanistan, Gen. John

Nicholson, has said several thousand additional troops are needed." The [AP](#) (8/20, Baldor, Burns) reports that Nicholson "hailed the launch of the Afghan Army's new special operations corps" on Sunday, an "exhortation of continued support for the Afghans [that] suggested the Pentagon may have won its argument that America's military must stay engaged in the conflict." [The Hill](#) (8/20, Manchester) says an addition of "4,000 troops to the 8,400 now deployed" is expected.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/20, Nicholas, Lubold) and other sources note that the President called for a troop drawdown as a candidate, but that military advisers and Secretary of State Tillerson counseled against it. [Politico](#) (8/20, Griffiths) reports that the "seemingly endless conflict in Afghanistan has been the subject of significant debate within the administration. The president has at times expressed skepticism about the possibility of winning a war there." [Breitbart](#) (8/20, Mora) says Trump "inherited a chaotic situation in Afghanistan from his predecessors."

Jonathan Swan of [Axios](#) (8/20) writes, "Trump's top national security advisers all agree the only way they'll win their missions in Afghanistan is to modestly increase troop levels, keep training the Afghan military, and keep a strong CIA and special forces presence to run aggressive counter-terrorism operations." Mattis has reportedly "been using this line in meetings: 'Mr. President, we haven't fought a 16-year war so much as we have fought a one-year war, 16 times.'" Swan writes that despite his reluctance, Trump "doesn't want to be the president who loses the country to the terrorists."

[Reuters](#) (8/20, Ali) reports that Sen. Tim Kaine said on CBS' Face The Nation, "The troop strength question is sort of cart before the horse. The real question is what is our strategy? And then when you lay out the strategy, the troop strength question can kind of answer itself." Sen. Ben Cardin said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (8/20, Hemmer) that he had not seen the new strategy by the White House but that "our objective needs to be that we have a regime in Afghanistan that can maintain some semblance of security so that we don't see" a growth of "terrorist organizations again within Afghanistan."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/20, Hennigan) headlines its report "Trump To Announce New Strategy – And Probably More Troops – For Afghanistan." The [Washington Times](#) (8/20, Boyer, Muñoz), the [Washington Examiner](#) (8/20, Cohen, Chaitin), and the [Daily Caller](#) (8/20, Pfeiffer) also have reports.

### **Trump Praises Boston Protesters Rallying Against "Bigotry And Hate," Condemns "Anti-Police Agitators."**

President Trump in a series of tweets on Saturday lauded protesters in Boston "speaking out against bigotry and hate" while criticizing "'anti-police agitators.'" Coverage of the President's remarks was limited, although reports contrast his remarks to comments last week following violence in Charlottesville and compared the violence at that rally to the peaceful demonstrations in Boston.

[The Hill](#) (8/19, Greenwood) reports Trump "heaped praise on counterprotesters in Boston," [tweeting](#), "Our great country has been divided for decades. Sometimes you need protest in order to heal, & we will heal, & be stronger than ever before!" He [added](#), "I want to applaud the many protesters in Boston who are speaking out against bigotry and hate. Our country will soon come together as one!"

However, [Bloomberg News](#) (8/19, Hamilton) reports that "an hour before lauding Saturday's protesters, Trump, who's spending the weekend at his Bedminster, New Jersey, golf resort, was less magnanimous." [Politico](#) (8/19, Griffiths) reports he [tweeted](#), "Looks like many anti-police agitators in Boston. Police are looking tough and smart! Thank you." [The Hill](#) (8/19, Manchester) reports the President in another tweet "also praised Boston's mayor and law enforcement officers amid the protests." Trump [said](#), "Great job by all law enforcement officers and Boston Mayor @Marty\_Walsh." In the lead [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/19, lead story, 3:05, Llamas) segment, Stephanie Ramos said the President's remarks amounted to "some mixed messages."

According to a front-page [New York Times](#) (8/18, A1, Seelye, Blinder, Bidgood) article, "thousands of demonstrators, emboldened and unnerved by the fatal eruption of violence in Virginia last weekend, surged into the nation's streets and parks on Saturday to denounce white supremacy and Nazism." The Times says that "the demonstrations were loud but broadly peaceful, even as tensions and worries coursed through protests that unfolded from Boston Common, the nation's oldest public park, to Hot Springs, Ark., and the bridges that cross the Willamette River in Portland, Ore. Other protests were expected on Saturday in Chicago, Dallas and Houston." The Times adds that "Boston faced dueling demonstrations, but a rally to promote 'free speech' was brief and unamplified," as does the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/19, Levitz, Kamp) in an article titled "Right-Wing Rally Is Overwhelmed By Counterprotests In Boston."



The [Washington Post](#) (8/19, Lowery, Pazzanese) reports that “in anticipation of potential violence, city officials corralled more than 500 police officers onto the Common, installed security cameras and constructed elaborate barriers to separate the free-speech rally from the massive demonstration in opposition to it.” The Post adds that “the handful of rally attendees gathered beneath a pavilion near the center of the Common, surrounded by metal barriers and dozens of police. Several hundred feet away, thousands of counterprotesters surrounding them carrying signs declaring ‘Black Lives Matter’ and ‘Hate Has No Home In Boston,’ while mockingly chanting ‘we can’t hear you’ when it appeared the ralliers had begun to speak.” In the lead [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/19, lead story, 2:50, Diaz-Balart) segment, Morgan Radford interviewed participants of both the “Free Speech” rally and the counterprotesters.

On the lead story of the [CBS Weekend News](#) (8/19, lead story, 2:10, Ninan), DeMarco Morgan reported “there were some skirmishes” and “a Trump supporter had to be escorted to safety by police.” The [Boston Globe](#) (8/18) reports the rallies ended early “with few injuries and 27 arrests, officials said at a late afternoon press conference.” The Globe adds “a throng of demonstrators that at times was 2 miles long marched from Roxbury to protest the rally, whose lineup included speakers with extremist ties, and which had prompted fears of a repeat of the violence that rocked Charlottesville, Va., earlier this week. Police estimated that 30,000 to 40,000 people ended up in and around the Common.”

[The Hill](#) (8/19, Greenwood) “Briefing Room” blog reports that after the demonstrations, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh said, “I want to thank all the people that came out to there that message of love, not hate. To fight back on racism, to fight back on anti-Semitism, to fight back on the supremacists that were coming to our city, on the Nazis that were coming to our city” [The Hill](#) (8/19, Manchester) “Briefing Room” blog separately reports Boston Police Commissioner William Evans also “said on Saturday that the vast majority of people who came out to protest a conservative free speech rally were there ‘for the right reason.’” Evans said, “Ninety-nine point nine percent of the people here were here for the right reason, and that’s to fight bigotry and hate for the most part here today.”

**Twitter Users Mock Trump For “Heal” Typos.** [USA Today](#) (8/19, Miller) reports that “when sending out a response to the counterprotest in Boston that quelled a ‘Free Speech’ rally on Saturday, President Trump attempted to tweet a message about the country needing protest in order to ‘heal,’” but he misspelled the word three times and “some Twitter users captured the typos in screenshots.” USA Today highlights some of the critical responses to the President’s mistake.

**Haley: “We All Have A Responsibility To Stand Up And Condemn” Hate.** Ambassador Haley “told staff in an email – seen by” [Reuters](#) (8/18) on Friday – that “everyone must stand up and condemn hate.” Haley said, “Those who march spewing hate are few, but loud. We must denounce them at every turn, and make them feel like they are on an island and isolate them the same way they wish to isolate others.” Reuters added “Haley, a former governor of South Carolina, said the ‘horrible acts’ seen in Charlottesville ‘took me back to sad days dealing with the Charleston tragedy in 2015.’” Haley also asserted, “People aren’t born with hate. We all have a responsibility to stand up and condemn it.” Haley continued, “While we should respect diversity of viewpoints, it is incumbent on us to challenge hate with the values we cherish. And it is incumbent on us to never, ever countenance violence as we do so.”

**WPost A1: GOP Lawmakers Divided Over Trump Following Charlottesville Response.** The [Washington Post](#) (8/19, A1, Balz) reports on its front page that following Trump’s response to the violence in Charlottesville last weekend, “Republican lawmakers and leaders face the most unpalatable set of choices yet in their relationship” with the President, as “they are caught between disgust over his failure to unequivocally condemn neo-Nazism, a desire to advance a conservative agenda and fears of rupturing the Trump-GOP coalition ahead of the 2018 elections.” According to the Post, “many GOP leaders are now personally wrestling with the trade-offs of making a cleaner separation with the president, while finding no good options” and “to some in the party, the hesitancy to act more boldly...falls short of what they believe this moment demands.” However, the Post acknowledges “interviews with Republicans around the country since Charlottesville highlight the dilemma elected officials face.”

**Sasse Worries “It Feels Like Violence Is Coming.”** [The Hill](#) (8/19, Bowden) “Briefing Room” blog reports Sen. Ben Sasse on Friday “in an extensive Facebook post...shared thoughts he said were prompted by the violence last weekend in Charlottesville, Va. that left three dead and multiple injured.” In particular, Sasse “warned that ‘it feels like violence is coming’ and the president won’t be able to calm the nation in the face of it.” The Hill adds Sasse also “unloaded on...Trump and his administration over the response to the incident, which Sasse called out as



motivated by white supremacists."

***Bera Expresses Support For Censuring Trump Over Charlottesville Response.*** The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/19, McGreevy) reports Rep. Ami Bera at a town hall meeting on Saturday called "Trump's actions and comments in response to racist violence in Virginia...embarrassing" and he suggested "a case could be made for censuring the president." Bera said, "I think given his actions, his words post-Charlottesville, you can very well make the case, and we are starting to talk about that, of censuring the president. We can't do that without Republicans finding the political courage to join with us." He added, "I, at this particular point, am embarrassed by our president and some of his actions, some of his words."

***NYTimes A1: Trump Supporters Unfazed By His Charlottesville Response.*** Under the headline "A Deal Breaker For Trump's Supporters? Nope. Not This Time, Either," the [New York Times](#) (8/19, A1, Tavernise) states on its front page that although "there are signs that Mr. Trump's support among Republican leaders and some Republican voters is weakening," his core supporters are sticking with him despite his comments on the violence in Charlottesville.

***NYTimes A1: Charlottesville, Trump's Reaction Has Redefined Virginia Gubernatorial Race.*** In a front-page analysis, the [New York Times](#) (8/19, A1, Martin) reports "the bloody white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Va., has thrust race and history to the forefront of this year's campaign for governor in Virginia," as has the President's response to the violence, and the outcome will "inevitably...be read as a harbinger for the 2018 midterm elections." The Times adds that the unrest will "ensure that the nation's highest-profile campaign this fall will also be fought in part along the highly combustible lines of racial politics." However, the Times says both parties will be "somewhat discomfited, both because of Virginia's bifurcated demography and the cautious nature of the two candidates," Lt. Gov. Ralph S. Northam (D) and Ed Gillespie (R).

***NYTimes: Trump "A Prince Of Discord Who Seems Divorced From Decency And Common Sense."*** The [New York Times](#) (8/19) editorializes that "with each day, President Trump offers fresh proof that he is failing the office that Americans entrusted to him," even as "the rolling disaster of his presidency accelerated downhill last week with a news conference on Tuesday at which he seemed determined to sow racial strife in a nation desperate for a unifying vision." The Times says Trump's defense of white supremacists shows "in essence, is where we are now: a nation led by a prince of discord who seems divorced from decency and common sense." The Times takes comfort in "some signs that our democratic system is working to contain Mr. Trump," but concludes "the deeper question, to Mr. Trump's remaining supporters, is not political but moral. It is whether they will continue to follow a standard-bearer who is alienating most of the country by embracing extremists."

### **Bannon Ends Tenure As Chief Strategist, Returns To Breitbart.**

The White House announced Friday that Strategist Steve Bannon has left the Administration to reclaim his post as executive chairman for Breitbart News. Coverage of Bannon's departure reached saturation levels in print and online, while the network newscasts, which all led with the story, devoted nearly 12 and a half minutes combined to the announcement. While reporting hailed Chief of Staff Kelly for securing Bannon's resignation, many analyses cautioned Bannon could pose a serious threat to his opponents who remain in the Administration from his position at Breitbart and highlighted that conservatives are upset with his removal.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/18, A1, Parker, Rucker, Costa, Paletta) reports on its front page that although Bannon had been "an architect" of Trump's election, the President dismissed "his embattled chief strategist...in a major White House shake-up that follows a week of racial unrest." The Post adds that "Trump had been under mounting pressure to dispense with Bannon, who many officials view as a political Svengali but who has drawn scorn as a leading internal force encouraging and amplifying the president's most controversial nationalist impulses." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/18, A1, Bender) reports in a front-page article that the President had stuck with his chief strategist through previous controversies, but Bannon's recent [interview](#) with the American Prospect likely forced Trump's hand.

In the lead [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/18, 5:01 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) segment, senior White House correspondent Jim Acosta said that according to sources, Bannon's interview "irked the President" because it "seemed to undercut Mr. Trump's message." In the lead story for [CNN's Situation Room](#)'s (8/18, 5:03 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) second hour, Acosta said "Bannon was supposed to be fired two weeks ago" because he disagreed with White House Chief of Staff Kelly's "disciplined power structure for the White House," but it was the "interviews that seemed to undercut Mr. Trump's message" on North Korea that constituted the last straw.

In the lead [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/18, 6:01 p.m. EDT, Baier) story, chief White

House correspondent John Roberts similarly said “an Administration official told Fox News the interview, quote, ‘Didn’t help Bannon’s case.’” [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (8/18, 5:07 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) White House reporter Kaitlan Collins also said Bannon’s interview with the American Prospect, in which he contradicted Trump’s message on North Korea and claimed “he could make personnel changes at the State Department,” had “infuriated” Trump in part because Bannon was effectively “acting like he was the president.”

Politics editor at large Chris Cillizza of [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (8/18, 5:32 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) said that interview was, in his opinion, the final straw for Trump not only because Bannon “granted an extended interview with a liberal magazine,” but because he was touting how he was “moving people around” and contradicting Trump’s message on North Korea. [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (8/18, 5:04 p.m. EDT, Baier) Bret Baier quoted Bannon as stating in the American Prospect interview, “There’s no military solution [to North Korea’s nuclear threats], forget it. Until somebody solves the part of the equation that shows me that ten million people in Seoul don’t die in the first 30 minutes from conventional weapons, I don’t know what you’re talking about, there’s no military solution here, they got us.”

Charles Krauthammer told [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (8/18, 6:39 p.m. EDT, Baier) that Bannon’s ouster was the result of “several strikes” against him over the interview, notably over his remarks on “North Korea, the undermining of the President’s policy, basically saying it’s a bluff and it’s an empty bluff. The China part, where he said we’re at war, economic war with China. Just when the President is trying to use Chinese influence on the North Korea problem.”

In a front-page article, the [New York Times](#) (8/18, A1, Haberman) reports that prior to an official announcement, the President “told senior aides that he had decided to remove Mr. Bannon, according to two administration officials briefed on the discussion.” However, the Times says “a person close to Mr. Bannon insisted that the parting of ways was his idea, and that he had submitted his resignation to the president on Aug. 7, to be announced at the start of this week,” but the violence in Charlottesville, Virginia delayed the announcement even as “Bannon’s many critics bore down after the violence in Charlottesville.” The Times adds “human rights activists demanded that the president fire so-called nationalists working in the West Wing. That group of hard-right populists in the White House is led by Mr. Bannon.”

However, the [Washington Times](#) (8/18, Boyer) says the White House “portrayed the move as a mutual parting.” [Breitbart](#) (8/18, Moons) reports White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders in a statement said: “White House Chief of Staff John Kelly and Steve Bannon have mutually agreed today would be Steve’s last day. We are grateful for his service and wish him the best.” [Politico Magazine](#) (8/18, Johnson) reports that “Trump himself, who hates firing people, has not spoken to Bannon personally since his dismissal, according to a White House aide.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/18, Sink, Talev) reports Bannon’s “exit caps a tumultuous four weeks in which a slew of senior officials have announced their departures, including the former White House chief of staff Reince Priebus, former press secretary Sean Spicer and former communications director Anthony Scaramucci, who was hired and fired within the space of 11 days.” The [AP](#) (8/18, Lemire, Colvin) states that “just seven months in, Trump has forced out his hardline national security adviser, his chief of staff, his press secretary (whose last day will be Aug. 31) and two communications directors – in addition to the FBI director he inherited from Barack Obama.” The AP characterizes Bannon’s departure to be “especially significant since he was viewed by many as Trump’s connection to his base of most-committed voters and the protector of the disruptive, conservative agenda that propelled the celebrity businessman to the White House.”

[Reuters](#) (8/18, Mason, Holland) describes Bannon as “a powerful and controversial figure known for far-right political views” who was “behind some of Trump’s most contentious policies, including a travel ban on people from several Muslim-majority nations, and has fought with more moderate factions inside a White House riven with rivalries and back-stabbing.” Reuters adds that the 63-year-old Bannon is “a champion of economic nationalism and a political provocateur” as well as “a former U.S. Navy officer, Goldman Sachs investment banker and Hollywood movie producer.”

In pieces chronicling Bannon’s tenure, [Bloomberg News](#) (8/18, Green) asserts he was “Trump’s most important political relationship” and [Reuters](#) (8/18, Oliphant) says that for the President, the removal of Bannon “was almost like bidding goodbye to a part of himself,” as “Trump’s most polarizing stances on matters such as immigration and national security closely tracked Bannon’s ‘America First’ anti-globalist worldview.”

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/18, story 2, 2:00, Mason), chief Washington correspondent

and "Face the Nation" anchor John Dickerson said that on "issues like immigration, trade, taxes, where Bannon's view was different than the orthodox Republican view – that's now no longer got a champion in the White House. And the same on foreign policy." Dickerson added Bannon "was against the kind of adventurism that we've seen in previous Republican politics. He also was the one who encouraged the President's counter-punching instincts. He was a risk taker during the campaigns." According to Dickerson, "Now that he's out, he may very well become a fierce opponent of the White House from the outside."

Nonetheless, a more than 2,100-word [Politico](#) (8/18, Dawsey, Karni, Nussbaum) analysis contends that "in the end, it was Steve Bannon's ego that did him in." In the lead [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/18, lead story, 4:00, Muir) segment, senior White House correspondent Cecilia Vega said Bannon "seemed to have so much power Time magazine called him 'the great manipulator.' And of course, SNL portraying him as the real mastermind in the Oval Office. It did not sit well with the President, who told the 'Wall Street Journal' in April Bannon was just, quote, 'a guy who works for me.' And just this week, the President making it clear he won the election on his own."

Meanwhile, according to [USA Today](#) (8/18, Jackson, Przybyla), "Bannon's departure triggered immediate speculation as to whether he would seek to retaliate against Trump and enemies inside the White House via Breitbart News or other outlets aligned with the now-former adviser." In an interview with [Bloomberg News](#) (8/18, Green), "Bannon said in his first public remarks since his ouster" asserted, "If there's any confusion out there, let me clear it up: I'm leaving the White House and going to war for Trump against his opponents – on capitol hill, in the media, and in corporate America."

The [New York Times](#) (8/18, A1, Grynbaum, Peters) reports on its front page that Bannon on Friday also resumed his role as chairman of "the hard-charging right-wing website" Breitbart News and he led Breitbart's evening editorial meeting. [The Hill](#) (8/18, Easley) reports Breitbart News editor-in-chief Alex Marlow in a statement said, "The populist-nationalist movement got a lot stronger today. ... Breitbart gained an executive chairman with his finger on the pulse of the Trump agenda." Breitbart President and CEO Larry Solov said, "Breitbart's pace of global expansion will only accelerate with Steve back. ... The sky's the limit."

[Politico](#) (8/18, Isenstadt) reports that "in the days leading up to his exit Friday, Steve Bannon told associates that he felt profoundly constrained by the limits of the federal government and was itching to return to the outside world." Politico adds that "it was time, he told friends, to get ready for 'Bannon da barbarian.'" [Breitbart](#) (8/18, Shaw) cites [Axios](#) in reporting that a source close to Bannon stated that "this week is a good window into what Bannon outside the [White House] would look like: A strong defense of POTUS and 'fire and fury' for enemies of The Trump agenda."

A [Washington Post](#) (8/18, Borchers) analysis predicts Bannon "could have even more of an impact" on the Administration from the outside. While the President may achieve "another amiable split" and retain Bannon as "a valuable ally," the Post warns that Bannon still "could focus his fury on former White House rivals who pulled the president in different directions." [The Hill](#) (8/18, Easley, Fabian) also reports that "while the chief strategist's ouster is a victory for... Kelly and his goal of eliminating leaks and bringing order to the Oval Office, some believe Bannon could be an even more disruptive force for the Trump administration from the outside."

Charles Hurt of the Washington Times told [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/18, 6:38 p.m. EDT, Baier) that Bannon may be the White House's "new enemy" who "is not going to quit." However, Hurt acknowledged Trump has "been unshakeable in his commitment to those things that he and Steve Bannon have both been fighting for, for a long time. I think in the other areas like Afghanistan and some of these global affairs issues or trade with China, things like that. I think that's where we are going to see a lot of the fireworks."

[Washington Post](#) (8/18, Bump) correspondent Philip Bump states that "if Bannon decides to train his well-honed ability to mobilize anger at the White House," he is unlikely to target Trump, "a president who largely agrees with the Breitbart agenda (thanks, in part, to being an avid consumer of it)," but rather may take aim at "the people around Trump who might try to turn him back into the Manhattan moderate he once was."

[McClatchy](#) (8/18, Kumar) reports "several former Trump advisers" are worried that Bannon will target "a trio of top aides he clashed with at the White House: Gary Cohn, director of the National Economic Council and a registered Democrat who is one of the less conservative voices in the White House; National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster; and Dina Powell, deputy national security adviser for strategy." In the lead [CBS Evening News](#) (8/18, lead story, 2:30, Mason) segment, Margaret Brennan reported "Bannon was unafraid to feud with other White House

officials, particularly the President's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, economic adviser Gary Cohen, and National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster."

**Conservatives "Expressed Fury And Dismay" Over Bannon's Removal.** [The Hill](#) (8/18, Easley) reports "a number of conservatives expressed fury and dismay on Friday after news broke that President Trump has parted ways with his chief strategist, Stephen Bannon," who they view as "a hero on the right [for] harnessing Trump's message of economic populism during the campaign." According to [McClatchy](#) (8/18, Welsh), "leaders of the far-right movement raged against Steve Bannon's ouster from the White House, warning the West Wing is now dominated by fake conservatives led by" Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner. In a Twitter live stream on Friday, "well-known far-right activist Mike Cernovich" asserted, "It's a full on coup now, guys" and he "directly blamed 'Javanka' – the nickname for Ivanka Trump and Kushner – for the ouster of the administration's nationalist ideologue." In addition, Cernovich and "Jack Posobiec, a voice associated with the far-right," told McClatchy "they thought Vice President Mike Pence could be responsible for the effort to oust Trump's inner circle from the administration."

[Politico](#) (8/18, Cheney, Bade) reports Bannon's departure "is alarming conservative lawmakers and their allies, who no longer have a direct pipeline to the Oval Office." Politico acknowledges that he "forged an especially close relationship with the House Freedom Caucus – the influential bloc of hard-line House Republicans – during a bruising health care fight in the spring" as Bannon had "played a central role in keeping the Freedom Caucus in the president's good graces when the group initially appeared to blow up the House's Obamacare repeal-and-replace effort in April."

[The Hill](#) (8/18, Kamisar) reports Rep. Lee Zeldin in a Fox News interview on Friday "lamented...Bannon's departure from the administration Friday, defending the controversial aide and conservative media figure against accusations of racism." Zeldin asserted Bannon has been "getting a really bad rap, characterizing him as a racist," which is "just not accurate from the person that I have had an opportunity to spend some time with." Zeldin added Bannon is "passionately pro-Israel, very consistent with the president's vision in regards to trade policy or moving in a better direction on the Iran nuclear deal. He's someone who brought a lot of talent and wisdom. He understands world history like few others do in this country."

Tucker Carlson, in an appearance on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/18, 6:21 p.m. EDT, Baier), said that Bannon's departure "is a big deal" and "is being framed in terms of identity politics: is Steve Bannon a racist or is he not? But the real story has to do with ideas and politics. Bannon was one of the only populist conservatives in the White House," and he was "at odds with the majority on virtually every possible policy topic," such as "energy, climate, trade, immigration, foreign policy." Carlson added Bannon "was one of the people fighting against H.R. McMaster on sending more troops to Afghanistan," and "he would have fought against, I think, any attempt to send troops to Venezuela, something the President mentioned."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/18, Weigel) reports that even with Bannon's dismissal, "the leaders of the 'alt-right,' which Bannon elevated and then denounced, predicted that their movement would continue." Richard Spencer, "the white nationalist who popularized the term 'alt-right' to rebrand the white nationalist movement," said, "I'm sad to see Bannon go, but I was never sure who Bannon was ideologically and politically. ... He's a fighter, to be sure, and a populist in a basic sense, but what he actually believed was never clear."

Meanwhile, the [Washington Times](#) (8/18, Boyer) reports Tea Party Patriots President Jenny Beth Martin, Americans for Limited Government President Richard Manning, UrbanCure President Star Parker, American Family Association President Tim Wildmon, ConservativeHQ.com Chairman Richard Viguerie, Center for Security Policy President Frank Gaffney, and other "influential conservatives" sent a letter to the President that praised Bannon and senior counselor Kellyanne Conway as "instrumental in helping him to keep his agenda on track." They said, "While the media buffets your presidency on a daily basis, we take comfort in knowing that Steve Bannon and Kellyanne Conway are both ably working for you to assist you in weathering these unfair attacks and keeping your agenda front and center."

**Moderate Republicans, Democratic Lawmakers Laud Bannon's Removal, Call On Trump To Make More Changes.** In the lead [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/18, lead story, 2:45, Holt) story, Hallie Jackson reported Bannon's departure was "cheered by civil rights groups, Democrats, even some Republicans." [McClatchy](#) (8/18, Glueck, Kumar) reports "Republicans exhaled on Friday after President Donald Trump ousted controversial strategist Steve Bannon from the White House – a move that will help ease lawmakers' return to Washington after a damaging and polarizing period many blame in part on the former Breitbart chairman." McClatchy adds that while "certainly, some GOP insiders warned that blame for the difficult nature of this White House ultimately sits



with Trump," other "operatives inside Washington and out said Bannon's exit signaled chief of staff John Kelly might be successful in bringing some order to what has been a chaotic White House prone to self-inflicted distractions that throw the entire Republican Congress off of its agenda."

Meanwhile, [The Hill](#) (8/18, Manchester) "Briefing Room" blog reports "Democrats are cheering the news that Stephen Bannon is out as White House chief strategist." In a separate article, [The Hill](#) (8/18, Lillis) reports House Minority Leader Pelosi hailed "Bannon's firing [as] welcome news," but she warned in a statement that "it doesn't disguise where President Trump himself stands on white supremacists and the bigoted beliefs they advance." Pelosi added, "President Trump's growing record of repulsive statements is matched by his repulsive policies. ... Personnel changes are worthless so long as President Trump continues to advance policies that disgrace our cherished American values."

[The Hill](#) (8/18, Lillis) reports Rep. Cedric Richmond, the head of the Congressional Black Caucus, similarly said in a statement that Bannon's removal "is not enough because the issue of him working in the White House has never only been about him." Richmond added, "It's also been about the racist and discriminatory policies he's helped draft and implement which hurt African Americans and other communities or color."

[The Hill](#) (8/18, Greenwood) "Briefing Room" blog reports Derrick Johnson, the NAACP's interim president and CEO, in a statement said, "The NAACP is glad to see Steve Bannon out of the White House." However, he added, "Ousting one key staffer...can't erase the words used by President Trump this week in defense of domestic terrorists, neo-Nazis and white supremacists. President Trump provided permission for these hate groups to exist."

**Sources Say Trump Is Considering Removal Of Gorka.** [Bloomberg News](#) (8/18, Talev, Sink) reports "Sebastian Gorka, an ally of ousted White House chief strategist Stephen Bannon, also faces possible removal from his post as a counterterrorism aide to President Donald Trump, two people with knowledge of the situation said Friday."

**Stock Market Rises On Announcement Of Bannon's Departure, But Fails To Maintain Momentum.** The [AP](#) (8/18, Jay) reports that while "stocks briefly turned higher following reports that President Donald Trump's chief strategist, Steve Bannon, left his White House post," the market "slumped in the final minutes of trading Friday and ended a rough week with more losses," as does the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/18, Driebusch, Yang). [Breitbart](#) (8/18, Carney) similarly reports that while the announcement of Bannon's removal "sent up a round of cheers on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange," the major indexes "shortly after...began to slide." Breitbart suggests this "may have been a classic case of 'buy the rumor, sell the news.'"

**NYTimes, WSJournal, WPost Welcome Bannon's Removal.** The [New York Times](#) (8/18) editorializes that while "it would be nice to think the departure of Steve Bannon, chief strategist in a strategy-free White House, signals that President Trump is oh-so-gradually closing the door on white nationalist sentiments," to do so "would require forgetting that Mr. Trump fostered birther lies and racist memes long before he worked with Mr. Bannon, who saw in him a vessel for a more developed nativist agenda." Nonetheless, the Times acknowledges "Bannon's exit is, of course, a relief" and concludes "good riddance, and let's hope other unqualified ideologues, like Sebastian Gorka, the Islamophobic foreign policy adviser, follow Mr. Bannon out the door."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/18) editorializes that Bannon's departure provides President Trump with an opportunity to salvage his Administration by abandoning the Breitbart coalition. However, the Journal concludes Trump still needs to adopt more discipline if he wants to achieve his agenda.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/18) editorializes that with Bannon's departure, "it is at least conceivable that both policy and process will improve with Mr. Bannon no longer among the personnel who are responsible for both" and suggests that "there is some reason to hope that the more moderate, stabilizing figures around the president – that is, the officials with whom Mr. Bannon did relentless bureaucratic battle – may now have more influence." According to the Post, Bannon's ouster "removes a cause of embarrassment (and a constant source of political harassment) for mainstream Republicans in the House and Senate – but it does not end their moral dilemma" because "Trump is still president. And he still does what he feels like doing, to include standing before television cameras and pronouncing on the moral equivalency of neo-Nazi marchers and those who marched against them." The Post concludes "the ultimate benefit of Mr. Bannon's departure may be to clarify the lines of accountability."

However, in his [Washington Post](#) (8/18, Dionne) column, E.J. Dionne Jr. contends Trump's decision to dismiss Bannon "sends a clear signal that the president's 'populism' has always been a ruse" and "underscores that for all of Trump's talk about workers and jobs, his administration's substantive actions have mainly benefited corporate interests." Dionne concludes "the president's

defenders will cheer this decision as an effort to create a more orderly and predictable administration,” but “just as likely, we are witnessing yet another erratic move from a leader who doesn’t know what he believes and was uneasy with an aide who dared imagine that there was a point to his presidency.”

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/18, story 2, 1:05, Holt), political director and moderator of “Meet the Press” Chuck Todd also cautioned, “I don’t know if it’s going to change that much. In many ways, Steve Bannon had been sidelined or marginalized a bit over the last three months.” He suggested, “I think on the staff front, it should mean maybe fewer staff in-fights, but I’ll tell you, look, it’s not as if Steve Bannon...created the Donald Trump ideology. They were kindred spirits. They found each other.” He added, “I think just because Steve Bannon goes doesn’t mean it somehow changes the President’s comments, for instance, on his belief of what happened in Charlottesville, on his belief on the culture sort of aspects of things. So I don’t think this changes the President. This simply keeps the White House a little less choppy internally.”

### **Report: Trump Disbands Federal Advisory Panel On Climate Change.**

The [Washington Post](#) (8/20, Eilperin) reports the Trump Administration will “disband the federal advisory panel for the National Climate Assessment, a group aimed at helping policymakers and private-sector officials incorporate the government’s climate analysis into long-term planning.” On Sunday, the charter for the Advisory Committee for the Sustained National Climate Assessment expired. On Friday Ben Friedman, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s acting administrator, “informed the committee’s chair that the agency would not renew the panel.” The next assessment is “due for release in 2018,” and “already has become a contentious issue for the Trump administration.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/20, Cohen) reports the committee “includes academics, local officials and corporate representatives.” The move by the Administration “follows the so-called leak of a sweeping federal climate change draft report earlier this month, which actually has been available online since January, that shows the dramatic rising of temperatures” in the US. Scientists are concerned “the Trump administration will attempt to squash conclusions from the draft report, as it has expressed skepticism toward climate change.” NOAA communications director Julie Roberts said “this action does not impact the completion of the Fourth National Climate Assessment, which remains a key priority.” [The Hill](#) (8/20, Manchester) also provides coverage of this story.

### **Some Republicans Moving Away From GOP’s Climate Change Opposition.**

[Politico](#) (8/19, Siders) reported on an “unlikely surge” of Republicans “taking steps to distance themselves from the GOP’s hard line on climate change.” Detailing some recent efforts by the bipartisan House Climate Solutions Caucus, the piece suggests that some lawmakers may be building up “moderate credentials ahead of the 2018 elections.” While few analysts “expect climate change to factor more significantly in 2018 than the economy, health care or myriad other issues,” some “Democrats are already hitting Republicans on the issue in competitive districts.” Despite this, some activists say the shift is a “sign of GOP movement on climate change.”

### **Trump Keeping His Promise To Cut Regulations.**

[The Hill](#) (8/19, Wheeler) reported that President Trump has kept his promise to cut regulations, examining his efficiency in reducing regulations so far. In discussing the Congressional Review Act, The Hill said that before Trump, the 1996 law “had only ever been successfully used once before.” And Republicans “are now using it to repeal the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s attempt to prevent banks and credit card companies from stripping consumers of their right to join class action lawsuits.”

## **Editorial Wrap-Up**

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### **New York Times.**

*“After The Terror In Barcelona.”* The [New York Times](#) (8/21) editorializes, “The hard truth is that there is no sure defense against young men filled with resentment and fired up with the lethal propaganda of militant Islam, especially as they turn to rudimentary weapons” like vehicles. Though ISIS “claimed responsibility, it does not require a global network or intricate training to drive a van into a crowd. Just blind hatred. So we know there will be more attacks...so



long as terrorist organizations like the Islamic State or Al Qaeda continue to spread their murderous blend of religious extremism, victimhood, vengeance and violence among disaffected youths."

***"Gov. Cuomo's Wise Move On Congestion Parking."*** In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (8/20, Board) backs a plan for "a system of tolls and taxi fees, known as congestion pricing," in New York City, and says that in supporting some version of it, Gov. Andrew Cuomo "has taken an important step forward. State lawmakers" and Mayor Bill de Blasio "ought to help the governor come up with, and pass, a credible plan."

### **Washington Post.**

***"Trump May Be Planning To Make A Very Bad Decision On The Iran Deal."*** A [Washington Post](#) (8/20) editorial says while the Administration has done "little to counter Iranian aggression," Tehran's "toxic ambition" has "been relatively contained" in one area, "the production of material for use in nuclear warheads." The Post accuses President Trump of "matching his passivity toward Iran's regional meddling with an apparent determination to torpedo" the 2015 nuclear deal. The Post says experts "puzzle over what Mr. Trump could hope to accomplish by announcing that Iran is noncompliant," because the move "would rekindle a dormant Iranian threat while tolerating its truly dangerous behavior."

***"The White House's Secretiveness Is Getting So Bad, It's Probably Illegal."*** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/20) writes that a new lawsuit from the advocacy group Public Citizen contends that the Administration is refusing to release White House visitor records – a refusal that "is likely illegal and certainly wrong." The Post argues that, by rejecting Public Citizen's information requests, the White House is defying its statement in April that it would release on request visitor records "relating to agencies not technically under the executive office of the president." The Post concludes, "It should not fall on the courts to enforce basic transparency from the public's elected leaders. But with this administration, the judiciary may have an essential role to play."

***"The ACLU Is Half-Right About Metro's Violation Of Free Speech."*** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/20) writes that the ACLU's new First Amendment lawsuit against the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's ban on "issue-oriented advertising" is partially correct in that WMATA did reject certain advertisements because of the viewpoints of the advertisers rather than issue advocacy. The Post argues that the lawsuit "goes too far," however, "in arguing for WMATA to accept its advertisements and those of PETA," which "really were issue ads prohibited by WMATA's legally acceptable guidelines." The Post concludes that WMATA "should approve advertisements for all products and services that meet WMATA's other guidelines, no matter how controversial the views behind those products may be."

### **Wall Street Journal.**

***"Texas Political Prosecution."*** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/20) writes that the prosecution of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton over indictment of securities fraud represents another example of Texas' habit of pursuing politicized prosecutions. The Journal notes Paxton's history of challenging state Republican leadership and argues that unless new evidence emerges justifying the case against him, Paxton is almost definitely not guilty despite the legal assault from opponents in the GOP establishment.

***"The Seattle Tax Fight."*** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/20) writes that the Seattle City Council's passage last month of an ordinance instituting an income tax on residents earning more than \$250,000 violates the city charter and Washington state law – which statutorily prohibits a tax on net income – and represents a first step towards the larger goal of the state's progressives to create a statewide income tax. The Journal notes the Freedom Foundation's lawsuit against the city over the tax and Washingtonians' rejection of a income tax ballot measure and concludes by describing the new tax as manifestly illegal.

***"The Teamsters' Impunity."*** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/20) writes that members of the Boston chapter of the Teamsters last week were found not guilty of extortion after allegedly threatening and demanding jobs from staffers of the "Top Chef" cable-TV show in June 2014 – a ruling that the Journal argues resulted from a legal loophole in the 1973 Supreme Court case *US v. Enmons* allowing unions to engage in behavior resembling extortion. The Journal contends that the Teamsters ruling further enforces unions' impunity, and concludes that Massachusetts lawmakers should consider enacting prohibitions on threatening behavior by unions in labor disputes.

## Big Picture

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### Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

#### **Wall Street Journal:**

[First Round Of NAFTA Talks Reveals Early Friction](#)  
[Imam In Spanish Town Emerges As Suspect In Barcelona Attack](#)  
[Trump And The CEOs: Behind The Collapse Of An Uneasy Alliance](#)  
[Investors Pull Back From Gundlach's Biggest Fund At DoubleLine](#)

#### **New York Times:**

[Trump Settles On Afghan Strategy Expected To Raise Troop Levels](#)  
[Bannon Was Set For A Graceful Exit. Then Came Charlottesville.](#)  
[Lobbyist At Trump Campaign Meeting Has A Web Of Russian Connections](#)  
[Barcelona Attack Suspects Had Ties To Imam Linked To ISIS](#)  
[Jerry Lewis, Mercurial Comedian And Filmmaker, Dies At 91](#)  
[Dick Gregory, 84, Dies: Found Humor In The Civil Rights Struggle](#)  
[Before A Solar Eclipse Crosses 14 States, A Great American Road Trip](#)

#### **Washington Post:**

[Totally Immersed In Today's Eclipse](#)  
[A Monument's Safe Haven](#)  
[10 US Sailors Missing, 5 Hurt](#)  
[A Comedian Of Antic Joy And Genius](#)  
[His Searing Punchlines Landed Hard](#)

#### **Financial Times:**

[Trump Targets Tax Reform To Reconnect With Republicans](#)  
[Insider Trading Schemes Using Encrypted Apps Alarm FBI](#)  
[Law Firm Quit As Barclays Adviser Over Qatar Loan Fears](#)

#### **Washington Times:**

[Rise Of Antifa After Violence In Charlottesville Alarms Free-Speech Advocates](#)  
[Trump To Unveil 'Update On The Path Forward' For Afghanistan](#)  
[Trump Campaign Backers Snubbed For Top National Security Jobs](#)  
[Conservatives Concerned For Trump's Populist Agenda After Bannon Departure](#)  
[Zika Virus Reduced To Few Cases After Scare In 2016](#)  
[Drones Become Latest Tool Drug Cartels Use To Smuggle Drugs Into U.S.](#)

#### **Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:**

**ABC:** Solar Eclipse; Weather Forecast; Jerry Lewis Dies; Trump-Public Opinion; Spain Terror Attacks-Aftermath; Florida-Police Shooting; USA Gymnastics Sex Abuse; Lottery Drawing-Hacking; New Jersey-Swimmers Rescue; South Carolina-Water Rescue; Scooter Accident; Dick Gregory Dies; Queen Elizabeth To Continue Her Rule; Solar Eclipse-Kentucky Legend.

**CBS:** WH-Afghanistan Deployment; Spain Terror Attacks-Aftermath; Solar Eclipse-Oregon; Solar Eclipse-Nashville; Jerry Lewis Dies; Dick Gregory Dies; South Pacific-Climate Change; Maine-Family Restaurant; Solar Eclipse-Hobbyist.

**NBC:** Jerry Lewis Dies; Dick Gregory Dies; WH-Afghanistan Deployment; Trump-Public Opinion; North Korea Threats; Spain Terror Attacks-Aftermath; Sanctuary Cities Crackdown; Solar Eclipse; Weather Forecast; USS Indianapolis Wreck; Kids Summer Camp.

#### **Network TV At A Glance:**

Solar Eclipse – 9 minutes, 50 seconds  
WH-Afghanistan Deployment – 4 minutes, 25 seconds  
Trump-Public Opinion – 4 minutes, 15 seconds  
Spain Terror Attacks-Aftermath – 3 minutes, 50 seconds  
Weather Forecast – 1 minute, 40 seconds

#### **Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:**

**ABC:** Singapore-US Destroyer Collision; North Korea Threats; WH-Afghanistan Deployment.

**CBS:** Singapore-US Destroyer Collision; WH-Afghanistan Deployment; North Korea Threats; Jerry

Lewis Dies; Solar Eclipse; Wall Street News.

**FOX:** Singapore-US Destroyer Collision; WH-Afghanistan Deployment; Trump Vacation Over.

**NPR:** Singapore-US Destroyer Collision; NAFTA Renegotiation; Jerry Lewis Dies; Dick Gregory Dies; WH-Afghanistan Deployment.

## Washington Schedule

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### Today's Events In Washington.

#### **White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Has lunch with Vice President Mike Pence; meets with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson; participates in a swearing-in ceremony of Robert Wood "Woody" Johnson, IV as United States Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; gives a Presidential Address to the Nation.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Has lunch with the President; hosts students from Cornerstone Schools for a Great American Solar Eclipse viewing event; joins the President to participate in the swearing-in ceremony of Robert Wood "Woody" Johnson, IV as United States Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; participates in a swearing-in ceremony for US Ambassador to Portugal George Edward Glass; attends the Presidential Address to the Nation.

**US Senate:** On recess until 5 September.

**US House:** On recess until 5 September.

**Other:** George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group returns to homeport – George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group (GHWBCSG) – with more than 7,000 sailors – scheduled to return to Naval Station (NS) Norfolk, VA, after a seven-month deployment \* While deployed, the strike group served in the 5th and 6th U.S. Fleet areas of responsibility conducting maritime security operations, theater security cooperation efforts and missions in support of Operation Inherent Resolve over Iraq and Syria Location: Naval Station Norfolk, 1530 Gilbert St, Norfolk, VA <http://www.navy.mil> <https://twitter.com/USNavy>

Total solar eclipse crosses the entire U.S. for the first time in 99 years – Solar eclipse visible in all of North America plus parts of South America, Africa, and Europe, with a thin path of totality running across the U.S., from Oregon through Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, and North Carolina to South Carolina from 10:16 AM PDT to 2:48 PM EDT – the first total solar eclipse to cross the contiguous U.S. since 1918. Longest duration of totality is near Carbondale, IL, where the sun is completely covered for two minutes and 40 seconds \* Lunar shadow's first point of contact with the U.S. is Lincoln Beach, OR, at 9:05 AM PDT, and it leaves the East Coast at 4:09 PM EDT Location: Carbondale New York City [eclipse2017.nasa.gov](http://eclipse2017.nasa.gov) <https://twitter.com/NASA> #eclipse2017

## Last Laughs

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### Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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